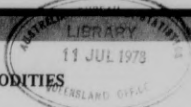


AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 5417.0

NOON 11 JULY 1978



IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES MAY 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr B. Donaghue on Canberra 525710 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Commodities with current orders in excess of recent clearances

- undergarments
- galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates
- air conditioners; portable or fixed window type
- colour television receivers

Import orders outstanding expected to be cleared during the 4 months ending September 1978

Quantity

3,591,000	units
32,700	tonnes
10,100	units
91,000	units

Commodities with current orders below level of recent clearances

- polypropylene in bulk forms
- hand knitting yarns
- tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles
- knitted sleepwear
- domestic refrigerators
- assembled tumble type clothes dryers
- assembled domestic washing machines
- precision ground steel ball bearings
- assembled new light commercial type motor vehicles

700	tonnes
291,000	kg.
2,056,000	sq. m
83,000	dozen
14,200	units
20,600	units
32,500	units
851,000	units
11,900	units

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This bulletin provides, for selected commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of *import orders outstanding and not cleared* through Australian Customs at 31 May 1978. For comparative purposes, details of import orders outstanding for previous periods, together with import clearances during recent months, are also shown.

2. The estimates of import orders outstanding and not cleared have been derived from the monthly Survey of Import Orders, through which information is supplied by either complete collections or stratified random samples of enterprises engaged in importing the selected commodities. The Survey is designed to facilitate short term predictions of significant changes in the level of future imports for selected commodities. The individual commodities covered in this bulletin were chosen in consultation with appropriate Government authorities and are subject to change from time to time, as circumstances change.

3. The selected commodities listed are NOT intended to represent all commodities imported; consequently, movements in the figures for these commodities should not be taken as being indicative of the general trend of imports.

4. These statistics exclude all goods imported duty-free under Customs by-law provisions, including government imports, and certain other goods such as goods entered under security for re-export or re-imported after repair overseas.

5. Estimates of import orders outstanding and not cleared will probably differ from future actual import clearances, due to :

- new orders being placed and subsequently cleared within the particular time period;
- new orders being placed by new or casual importers;
- orders being cancelled or revised at any stage.

Description of terms

6. *Imports cleared* - Goods cleared through Australian Customs for home consumption (either

directly on arrival in Australia or from Customs bond). Details of clearances shown in this bulletin may differ from the ABS's official statistics on imports cleared for home consumption because they have been adjusted to exclude various categories of imports as listed in paragraph 4 above.

7. *Import orders outstanding and not cleared* – The aggregate of firm orders placed overseas for goods that are expected to be cleared through Australian Customs any time after the date specified; after allowance for cancellations, and including imports landed but held in Customs bond.

Precision of the estimates

8. Estimates for those commodities denoted in the tables by (b) have been derived from information supplied by a sample of enterprises; consequently they may differ from the results which would have been obtained by a complete collection. A measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error of each estimate. There are about 2 chances in 3 that a sample estimate will differ from the results which would be obtained from a complete collection by less than 1 standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than 2 standard errors. The standard error associated with the estimates of total import orders outstanding for each particular commodity is approximately 2 per cent. This means, for example, that

for the May 1978 estimate of total import orders outstanding of 2,212,000 sq.m of carpet and carpet tiles there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range of approximately 2,168,000 sq.m to 2,256,000 sq.m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range of 2,124,000 sq.m to 2,300,000 sq.m.

9. Sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by businesses. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they can occur in any enumeration whether it is a complete collection or a sample.

Commodities

10. The selected commodities for which statistics are shown in this bulletin are listed below, together with their definitions in terms of the Tariff Items/Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff.

ABS publications

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications, 1977* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

COMMODITY

Polypropylene in bulk forms, including waste and scrap

Hand knitting yarns

Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles

Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts)

Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres)

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates

Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates

Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type

Refrigerators for domestic use, over 200 litres internal capacity

Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled

Washing machines for domestic use; assembled

Precision ground steel ball bearings

Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen 48cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen exceeding 48cm

Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72

tonnes gross vehicle weight (excl. four-wheel drive vehicles); new, assembled

Four-wheel drive motor vehicles less than

2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

39.02.160

53.07.190.012, 53.07.910.01X, 53.10.900.029/.03X/.040/.051, 56.06.300, 56.06.900

58.02.500, 58.02.900.386/.397

60.04.200.17X/.045/.078/.180/.191/.205/.216/.227/.238/.249

60.04.610.10X/.110/.121/.132/.212/.223/.234/.245/.256/.267/.278

60.04.690.106/.117/.161/.172/.183/.194, 61.03.300.031/.042/.053/.064,

61.04.400.033/.044/.055/.066

73.13.100.113/.135/.157/.179

73.13.300.136/.17X/.180/.191/.205 and part of stat. keys .158 and .169

73.15.300

84.12.000.050/.061

84.15.211.015/.026, 84.15.219.014/.025, 84.15.221.1X,

84.15.229.019

84.40.211.015, 84.40.219.014

84.40.221.020/.031/.042/.053, 84.40.229.2X/.030/.041/.052

84.62.200.207/.218/.229

85.15.100.891

85.15.100.916

85.15.100.938

87.02.210.053, 87.02.310

87.02.390 part of stat. key .237

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 31 MAY 1978 (PRELIMINARY)

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 31 May 1978			Imports cleared in recent periods (excluding by-law)	
		Expected by importers to be cleared			May 1978	Four months ended May 1978
		Between 1 June 1978 and 30 September 1978	Beyond 30 September 1978	Total orders outstanding		
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne	700	n.a.	n.a.	250	2,200
Hand knitting yarns (b)	kg.	291,000	n.a.	n.a.	200,000	631,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	sq.m	2,056,000	156,000	2,212,000	696,000	2,542,000
Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts) (b)	dozen	83,000	194,000	277,000	31,500	176,000
Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres) (b)	no.	3,591,000	402,000	3,993,000	887,000	3,221,000
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	32,700	n.a.	n.a.	6,700	28,300
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	10,100	8,900	19,000	850	6,400
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	14,200	6,800	21,000	3,800	14,600
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	20,600	n.a.	n.a.	5,350	24,200
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	32,500	n.a.	n.a.	10,100	36,500
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	851,000	1,552,000	2,403,000	305,000	1,080,000
Television receivers, colour; complete						
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	62,700	29,700	92,400	11,500	50,000
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	41,400	6,300	22,200
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	11,200	700	4,300
Total	no.	91,000	54,000	145,000	18,500	76,500
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (c)						
four-wheel drive	no.	5,250	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	6,650	n.a.	n.a.	3,500	9,900
Total	no.	11,900	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) At the end of May 1978 there were 450 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

n.a. not available. .. nil.

TABLE 2. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES — OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 30 APRIL 1978 (REVISED)

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 30 April 1978			Imports cleared in recent periods (excluding by-law)	
		Expected by importers to be cleared			April 1978	Four months ended April 1978
		Between 1 May 1978 and 31 August 1978	Beyond 31 August 1978	Total orders outstanding		
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne	700	n.a.	n.a.	250	2,200
Hand knitting yarns (b)	kg.	371,000	n.a.	n.a.	141,000	557,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	sq.m	2,049,000	199,000	2,248,000	392,000	2,301,000
Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts)(b)	dozen	93,000	206,000	299,000	44,000	199,000
Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres) (b)	no.	3,647,000	524,000	4,171,000	793,000	3,049,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	36,500	n.a.	n.a.	7,650	50,000
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	37,400	n.a.	n.a.	4,150	26,600
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,500	550	3,050	700	3,600
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	8,500	10,900	19,400	750	10,800
Television receivers, colour; complete						
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	56,700	15,900	72,600	13,400	49,700
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	37,700	2,300	19,000
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	11,700	500	4,800
Total	no.	87,300	34,700	122,000	16,200	73,500
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (c)						
four-wheel drive	no.	5,600	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	7,700	n.a.	n.a.	2,600	8,150
Total	no.	13,300	900	14,200	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes paragraph 8. (c) At the end of April 1978 there were 1,600 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

n.a. not available. .. nil.

TABLE 3. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED, DECEMBER 1977 TO MAY 1978

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding					
		1977	1978				
		December	January	February	March	April	May
						r	p
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne	2,100	2,350	1,800	(e)700	(e)700	(e)700
Hand knitting yarns (b)(f)	kg.					(e)371,000	(e)291,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)(c)	sq.m	2,054,000	1,937,000	2,188,000	2,088,000	2,248,000	2,212,000
Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts)(b)(f)	dozen					299,000	277,000
Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres) (b)(f)	no.					4,171,000	3,993,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates (e)	tonne	40,300	(d)	36,300	(d)	36,500	(d)
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates (e)	tonne	30,900	30,900	35,000	37,700	37,400	32,700
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,500	(d)	3,300	(d)	3,050	(d)
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	25,800	18,800	14,400	14,400	19,400	19,000
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	(d)	15,900	(d)	(e)14,000	(d)	(e)14,200
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	(d)	23,700	(d)	25,600	(d)	(e)20,600
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	(d)	37,800	(d)	44,100	(d)	(e)32,500
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	(d)	2,387,000	(d)	2,496,000	(d)	2,403,000
Television receivers, colour; complete							
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	64,000	59,000	59,000	68,000	72,600	92,400
viewable screen 48cm	no.	35,000	34,000	36,000	39,000	37,700	41,400
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	18,000	14,000	13,000	12,000	11,700	11,200
Total	no.	117,000	107,000	108,000	119,000	122,000	145,000
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled							
four-wheel drive	no.	5,600	5,700	6,200	(e)5,450	(e)5,600	(e)5,250
other	no.	7,000	6,500	7,700	(e)8,350	(e)7,700	(e)6,650
Total	no.	12,600	12,200	13,900	(e)13,800	(e)13,300	(e)11,900

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes carpet tiles from February 1978. (d) This commodity is surveyed in alternate months. (e) Includes only orders expected to be cleared in the subsequent four months. (f) Included in the survey from April 1978.

r - revised. p - preliminary. | - break in series.